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### UM Excellence Fund raises record amount

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# University of Montana

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Smith/vsl

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### UM EXCELLENCE FUND RAISES RECORD AMOUNT

#### MISSOULA--

The University of Montana Excellence Fund raised a record amount of money in record time during its recent Missoula drive, according to chairman Don Chugg.

"We exceeded our \$105,000 goal and are expecting still more contributions to come in," Chugg said. "We tried to complete the drive as quickly as possible this year, and we succeeded in reaching our goal in record time. Because we ran the drive much faster this year, many people have not yet had a chance to give. We encourage them to make their contribution to the Excellence Fund."

The Missoula Campaign is a major part of the Excellence Fund's nationwide effort to raise unrestricted money for the university. The Excellence Fund will also conduct direct-mail appeals and a nationwide student phonathon as part of the year-long drive to raise \$275,000.

Chugg thanked all the local businesses and individuals who supported this year's campaign.

"Without the tremendous network of volunteers and community leaders working on behalf of the Excellence Fund, we would not be able to accomplish such great things for the university," he said. "The continued generous

(over)



add one--excellence fund

support of the Missoula community makes the Excellence Fund a success each year."

The team raising the most money during the drive was headed by steering committee member Dr. Leonard Brewer of Missoula, according to Monie Smith, assistant director of the UM Foundation and Excellence Fund manager. His volunteers brought in \$10,937 in contributions.

Smith also reported that nearly \$18,000 was contributed from university personnel as part of the on-campus portion of the drive.

Nearly 1,500 Missoula businesses and individuals were contacted about giving to the local drive.

Excellence Fund money is used to support UM programs that do not receive state funding. They include the Mansfield Library, the Marching Band, the Night School, performing arts outreach, faculty development and alumni programs.

UM is also involved in a major fund-raising effort to raise money for the long-term needs of the institution. This is being done through the University of Montana Campaign, which includes an effort to raise money for the new Washington-Grizzly Stadium.

"Excellence Fund money is used strictly for academic areas of the University," Smith said. "No Excellence Fund money will be used for the UM Campaign programs or the new stadium."

The next major Excellence Fund event in the Missoula area will be a student-staffed phonathon next spring.

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